

Throwing Muses are now just singer-songwriter, guitarist Kristin Hersh and drummer, singer David Narcizo. Hersh is a wailer both on vocals and guitar. The songs on their new Red Heaven (Sire/Warner Bros.) are sparse, poetic and tough and sometimes strange. Hersh rocks furiously, but also can lay back. Her impressive acoustic picking on "Pearl" shows she's listened to traditional British pickers like Bert Jansch and her finger-picked electric on "Summer St." has touches of blues and folk while creating a mood that is neither. Then on "Vic" she gets a sound as heavy, nasty and thick as any metal band. Rarely catchy, but highly melodic and a warehouse of ideas Throwing Muses will keep you guessing and entranced.

Throwing Muses with Flaming Lips: Thurs., Oct. 22 at 8 p.m. at TLA, 334 South St., \$14.50, 922-1011.

--Peter Brown